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For Immediate Release:

SELECTION OF Dan Anderson AS STATE STAR for Montana Small Business  
Development Centers Network

Sheldon Bartel, Executive Director of the Montana Business Assistance Connection in Helena, announced that Dan Anderson, Director of the Small Business Development Center in Helena, located at Montana Business Assistance Connection, has been named the 2006 Montana "State Star". He was recognized at the national conference of the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) in Houston, Texas in mid-September.

"I am pleased to make this announcement, and to recognize Dan Anderson for his extraordinary contributions to the work of the Montana SBDC and small business in Montana," said Ann Desch, State Director of the Montana Small Business Development Centers statewide network.

Dan Anderson was chosen by the Montana SBDC for being an exemplary performer, making a significant contribution to the Montana SBDC program, and showing a strong commitment to small business in Montana.

"It is an honor to accept this award," said Dan Anderson, "and to have the opportunity to help so many people achieve the dream of starting and succeeding in their own business."

The Helena SBDC is one of ten statewide SBDC offices that are overseen by the Montana Department of Commerce. The SBDC Program is funded by a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, Montana Department of Commerce, and local host economic development organizations.

The Helena SBDC is hosted by Montana Business Assistance Connection. As SBDC Director for a three-county region, Anderson tailors SBDC services to start-up and existing small business owners in Lewis & Clark, Meagher, and Broadwater counties, providing confidential, business counseling, training courses, and business finance assistance, all at no charge to the client.

America's Small Business Development Center Network is a partnership uniting private enterprise, government, higher education and local nonprofit economic development organizations. It is the Small Business Administration's largest partnership program, providing management and technical assistance to help Americans start, run and grow their own businesses. With about 1,000 centers across the nation, the SBDC network assists approximately 700,000 small businesses every year in face-to-face counseling and training, in addition to assisting hundreds of thousands more small businesses through

fax-on-demand and e-mail.